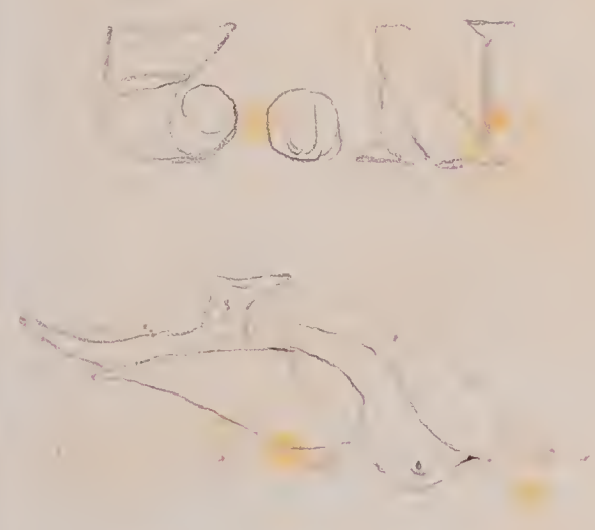
(From Mr. P. Atkins, June 5th 1830)

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

I have here endeavoured to give you an idea of the appearance of the stigma of the N. kalmiana as found growing around here. I have 30 specimens now before me and as you will see they vary considerably as to margin, No. of radiating lines, and central depression. There is but one specimen in the 30 (collected indiscriminately) with 14 lines, the remainder have from 8 to 13. The central depression I have endeavoured to show by a longitudinal section of the stigma. All are natural size. The accompany leaves show the figure but not the usual size perhaps one third larger would come near the average size. One of my plants has a six leaved calyx I have observed this before, but rarely. The petioles are compressed; when cut across look like this ⊕ O . . .



TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Gorham Oct. 17th 1830.

Dear Sir

Your favour of the inst. was received a few days since and I can assure you was not less welcome for coming unexpectedly. I have at present merely time to say that there occurs an excellent opportunity to send a package to your City and rather than lose it I shall lay together hastily what I can and send along. Among my specimens you will find many common plants some of these I threw in to show you what grows here and others to obtain your opinions of my Labels. I am not satisfied with Bromus pubescens but could make nothing else of it Poa canadensis ditto. Glyceria fluitans ditto & Agropyrum caninum? least of all. Indeed among the grasses I shall expect to have of errors.

Triglochin maritimum I am convinced can be nothing else the capsules certainly vary in number in the earliest flowering specimens, I find them 3 — 4 — 5 & 6 sometimes all on the same plant. The latest flowering specimens have more invariably 6 capsules

Aspidium intermedium 3 specimens together, are they alike?

Sabbatia angularis how does this differ from the S. corymbosa?

Salix longifolia a low species 2 – 3 ft. high growing on the rocks at the foot of the Lower Genesee Falls. Found in blossom in July.

Solidago purpurens? apparently indigenous in Dutchess Co N.Y. but may be a straggling exotic.

Lonicera periclymenum Cult. by the name of Monthly Honeysuckle — ? Buffalo. same paper with two last. Grew on the sandy beach of Lake Erie. Have not had time to examine it since it was collected.

Stachys sylvatica is it a distinct species

Physalis Sp. Sp. Sp. I really cannot distinguish the three species on this label as distinct.

Epilobium palustre What do you make this synonymous with

Corydalis canadensis can this possibly be the C. formosa Pk.?

Galium lanceolatum fruit not strictly reflexe, leaves sometimes obtuse

Phlox divaricata Sp. After close examination I attach the accompanying synonyms.

Ranunculus multifidus you will see a few small specimens by themselves; these grew where the water had retired & left them exposed - perhaps the leaves agree better with Pk's description than when they grow immersed.

Cardamine virginica, pratensis? How do they differ?

Geranium pusillum is it distinct from G. dissectum?

Ribes lacustris If I am right the berries of this plant are sometimes smooth & sometimes prickly.

Astragalus carolinianus expecting the difference in the shape & size of the Legume I can find no difference between this & A. canadensis.

Crataegus — ? I send you a description I drew from the living plant. — ? Thorny: leaves petioled, deltoid-ovate, acute, doubly serrate towards the apex, entire at the base, with short scabrous pubescence above, glabrous beneath, pedicels pubescent: calyx sub-pubescent; divisions lanceolate, acuminate, ciliate-serrate; serratures glandular: styles one to three.

10 feet - May. Flowers somewhat nauseous scented; stipules caducous. Probably C. glandulosa

The specimens with no locality mentioned are from Gorham

If there should be any thing in this region that you would be pleased to have I shall be very happy to exchange with you for plants from your vicinity.

Let me enquire of you in the name of the Goddess of Patience not to make me wait 3 months for an answer to this and believe me in haste

most sincerely Yours W. E. Atkins.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Prof. John Torrey.

1 Dolichos pumil. ?
2 Lupin. perenly
3 Lonicera Caprifolium
4 Rosa
5 Hypericum ("Pr. Cyp.")
6 Crinita
7 varia
8 sp. insaniendo
9 stipitata
10 stellulata? (max inf)
11 bullata ("retrorsa")
12 creeps var.
13 retrorsa ("lacustris")
14 mutata: pub. young
15 Brachyel. acut. (Schauer)
16
17 Agrost. terrestris
18 Androp. nutans
19 Diplotaxis ("vir.")
20 Bromus Brit.
21 Bromus Tectorum.
22 Fest. nut. ("Poa canad")
23 Elym. Hystrix (unexpanded. "E. villosus")
24 Danthonia spec.
25 Panic. latif
26 Glyc. fluit

~~15 C. Stipata~~

Aspid. intermed. 2 Sp. one int. & the other asplenioides

Ergotaceae

Hyp. "galeodes": Kalm. styl. 5

Scutell. parvul. Mx. prob. also prob. S. ambig. Rott

Lysimach. verol. "hybrid, Mx."

"Epilob. palust" is it distinct from E. coloratum

"?? Buffalo" Ptelea.

"Euphorb.?" Bupleurum rotundif.

"Tree 60-80 ft high - banks Seneca & Lake" Gymnocladus

Ribes gracile ("lacustre")

"Cardam virg" var of C. pennsylv flowers large!

"2 2 Gotham" Rhamnus alnifolius

"Lin. multiflorus" no - but what?

Dr. Torrey M. D.
New York

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

20. Ag. pan. ~~tum~~ lat. & term. bas. clandest. cor. valde mag. gl. inf. brevis. cor. glum. sup. aequal. ocm. obovat. subrotund. compress. coll. vajin. barbat.

Dr. Curtis
Oct. 19th 1830
and Aug. 13th 1831

Frederick, Md. May. 5th 1882

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My Dear Sir

Your kind invitation to take a trip to the Falls of St. Anthony would have been answered immediately had it not been for a rascally postscript of two lines that completely demolished all the castles in the air that the preceding part of the letter had been instrumental in building – You were right when you supposed I would snap at the chance for such an excursion and I very much regret that the opportunity should have been lost. I know Houghton whom you say goes out and without any vanity, do sincerely believe that the trip would be worth much more to myself than it can possibly be to him. He is a thorough-going Rensselaer-school boy, without the necessary discrimination to take advantage of the undoubted and peculiar benefits of that school, apart from the imperfections that it has in common with all other institutions. It may possibly happen that you may hear of another such a chance for me to indulge my roving propensities. If so I must entreat

you to let me know it wherever I may be. I am young and single (without the ?) and possess the capability of bearing fatigue and the ardour for discovery in sufficient degree to satisfy even Mr. Schoolcraft.

I have often thought about starting off for the interminable west pretty much in the manner that you describe Drummond to have done — but have always been deterred by the fear of sinking more money by the experiment than my poverty can afford. Can you give me any advice upon the subject? Would it require a large sum for an outfit and could I reasonably calculate upon being paid for my labour by the sale of any thing I could secure during my wanderings? From such inclinations you can judge somewhat how exultingly I conned over your letter and how despondingly alas! I perused the postscript —

Have seen nothing yet this Spring, peculiarly interesting in Botany though hope in the course of the two months that I spend here teaching the science, to find something besides the "omnibus locis" weeds that one meets with every where — I am very much in want of

some general system upon the plan of Persoon's, but more extensive. Decandolle's Prodromus (I believe he calls it) in 4 vols. 8vo. comes nearest what I mean. Can I get anything better than that and if not can you procure that for me from Paris with the Organography of the same author that you refer to? These (if you can get them so soon) and also Elliott's sketch I shall have an opportunity of sending for in the course of two or three months by Mr. Brooks and Lady who visit your City on their way north. And if in the interim you will let me know how much you will have to expend in executing the troublesome commissions I will send along the two things by him. The flowers you were so kind as to forward to Balt. for me have not reached this place yet – have been waiting for a safe opportunity – shall probably receive them in a day or two. If you knew the pleasure your letters afford me you would excuse my requesting you to write often to

Yours most sincerely

W. L. Atkins.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

P.S. If you are ever at a loss where to find me, just direct your letter to Troy, N.Y. and my friends there will forward it.

Do you know the character of Sowerby's Mineral Conchology?

FREDERICK
MAY
5
Md.

PAID 18 3/4

To, Prof. John Torrey
No. 30 Mc. Dougal St.
Newyork.

W. E. Aikin
May 5th 1832
Amd

4

Hagerstown Md. Nov. 22nd, 1832.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My Dear Sir

I have delayed answering your very kind communication of the 20th until I could hear from Albany and could apprise you of the result of the application I received a letter from Drs. Lindsley last evening - he writes like a courtier and informs me in the most polite manner imaginable that Dr. Gerard Troost has filled the Sci. of Chemistry in that University, for several years & still continues to do so - he expresses himself perfectly satisfied with the testimonials forwarded but regrets that he has no vacant post to offer me. I presume the idea of a vacancy there might have originated from the circumstance that Dr. Troost was recently appointed by the Legislature to take a geological survey of the State of Tennessee and his acceptance of

this might have led some to suppose that he thereby vacated his Professorship & thus induced them to represent the situation to you as actually vacant — I am extremely sorry that your kind wishes in my behalf have not been more fully accomplished & that all the pains you have taken should have proved so fruitless — But if you are not discouraged, I am not & perhaps our next attempt may be more successful —

Like yourself I am at present engaged in the mysteries and the drudgery of the Laboratory & expect to be until next March. If I can possibly find time during the winter I wish very much to furnish you with a small collection of plants to compare with the Herbals of Europe — I am anxious to have your opinion of the specimens in the small parcel forwarded some time since — as soon as you have leisure amidst other more pressing calls, please give me your views — In great haste

I am my Dear Sir Yours sincerely M. E. A. Atkins

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Wm E. Aikin

Nov. 22nd, 1832

Recd. Nov. 26th.

Ans'd. Decr. 31st.

Newyork

Prez. John Torrey

Paid

FAID

To

[illegible]

Ans. Feby 4th 1834

Chte. St. Mary's College
Emmetsburg Md. Jan. 4. 1834

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

My Dear Sir

I have now lying before me your last favour dated no longer back than Feb. 1833. Since that time you have been wandering east and I, to the west. If you traversed the angry Atlantic, I encountered the perils of the Alleghanies — Having spent a few months last summer west of the mountains. I am now back again to this meridian once more and from present appearances shall remain a twelvemonth or so. Which for me you know is carrying a pretty considerable while in one place You very sagely observe, it is quite time I settled down! Good works! Have I not been trying to find an adhesive spot for this two years? And now you advise me it is time to

settle down! I have at present the Professorship of Nat. Phil. & Chem. in this institution, whose principal advantages are that it affords me leisure for study, and the title of Prof.! I intend the following season to ransack this neighborhood for weeds and I intend to the north in July (our vacation) if there is anything around me that you particularly wish, that happens to be within my reach it will give me pleasure to bring it along. Or if you would like duplicates of any of the specimens heretofore sent from this region I will collect a great. deal. I will not ask you at this time about your travels or the wonders you have seen or neipied as I hope to have an opportunity of talking the matter over next summer. Apropos, will you be in the city in July or August?

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

I intend preparing for the Spring No. of Silliman's Journal some notices of the rock formation of the Alleghany Chain. With a section from Baltimore to Wheeling on the Ohio, showing the superposition of the rocks, founded on observation. It will interfere a little with my very good friend Prof. Eaton's lower secondary notions, as the formation for two thirds the distance is decidedly transition But this is his look out not mine. I suppose you are as usual over head and ears in business but must hope you will find time to afford me a few lines if no more

Believe me most sincerely
Yours,
W. L. A. Aikin.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

W. A.

Paid 18 3/4

Jany 7

Professor John Torrey

New York

07

Recd. May 5th

50

Mt. St. Mary's College
May 1st 1835

LIBRARY
NEW YORK
BOTANICAL
GARDEN.

My Dear Sir

Your very welcome favour of the 20th ult. came to me like tidings from the dead for in truth so long time had elapsed since the date of my last letter that I had pretty much given up all hopes of hearing from you again. You ask about my present views — I am still here lecturing as usual on Nat. Phil. & Chem. & occasionally on Geology — Botany comes in as a work of supererogation. Fortunately I have my young gentlemen two years under my charge or I could hardly give them much available information on these multifarious subjects. My present views are to remain where I am until an opening occurs that will offer more encouragement than this situation. It would be rather foolish in me to leave this in hopes of finding a situation elsewhere — to change a certainty for an uncertainty. You say

Given by A. M. VAIL. from the L. D. Brooke Collection

I will find plenty of good employment your way on further trip – If you speak from any definite knowledge of any particular place. I would be happy indeed to hear from you on the subject – but if you speak merely from general impressions you can hardly blame me for feeling little disposed to trust the chances of success when opposed by the chances of failure. I regret extremely that I had not heard of the vacancy at Columbia S. C. as I have testimonials that would almost have ensured success. Should any thing of the kind occur again you would confer a very lasting obligation by acquainting me with it.

As for Botany I mean to make a desperate effort this summer to find a little more time to devote to it I cannot answer for many rare plants but expect to find many doubtful ones in my own Herbal which I shall ransack thoroughly this season. I have not given it a careful examination for many years and within that time the contributions of distant correspondents have added materially to its contents. Should any thing

turn up worth your notice will let you know —

The last Ed. of Eaton's manual contains several species which I sent him as undescribed — A. Lathyrus, a Scutellaria &c. They were new to me though possibly may not be to you.

Very sincerely Yours

W. E. A. Aikin

P.S. I forgot to mention that I was unexpectedly complimented last Winter with the Honorary degree of M. D. So that I will not trouble you any more in that subject.

18 3/4

EDINITSBURGH
May 2

John Torrey M. D.
Prof. of Chem. & Botany in
College of Phys & Surg's
Newyork

W. E. A. Aikin
May 1st, 1835.
Rec'd May 5th

TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

6

Rec'd. Aug. 10th -

Mt. St. Mary's College Aug 7th 1835

My Dear Sir

I need hardly tell you I was very happy on receiving your last friendly letter - your kind offers are indeed gratifying and I think it more than probable that I shall yet avail myself of your good offices to find some situation in your City where I can have two or three institutions to lecture to in the manner you suggested

Just at this moment I am waiting to hear the result of a negotiation commenced by a friend of mine in Balt. which if it succeeds will induct me into a comparatively pleasant place. It is to lecture on Nat. Phil. and Chem. in connexion with the Chemical Department of the Maryland University & perchance I may have it in my power to make some bargain with some other of their institutions like the one you proposed for Newyork. In addition I made application a few days since to the University of Virginia and also to Beaufort College S.C. (a place you may never have heard of) where as I am informed there are vacancies at present. As soon as I learn

any thing definite in regard to any of these plans will write you again. I am not sure whether there is a Prof. of Chem. at Kenyon College or not but will endeavour to ascertain.

You ask about my preferences — all other things equal I would much prefer a College but with the odds of a few hundreds per an. on the other side I could give up the College and live very contentedly as a simple lecturer on Natural Science. You see I am becoming avaricious as I grow older — hitherto my failings have been on the other side till I have learned that money is not only power but it is liberty & comfort and health too in one sense and I have vagely resolved to practise a little of that worldly wisdom which in fair weather provides against storms.

You shall hear from me again before many weeks and in the meantime I must beg you will accept my best thanks for your friendly offers

Most sincerely Yours

W. E. A. Aikin.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Baltimore Oct. 13th 1839.

My Dear Sir

I am requested by my sister to ask you whether in your connection with the Geolog. Surv. of the State you find it desirable to have plants correctly figured. She has already many which she has drawn from nature and would be very willing to aid you in this way in future if you need such assistance. Her knowledge of botany is amply sufficient to insure perfect botanical accuracy in all her drawings and as to execution I am confident a sight of those she has now on hand would abundantly satisfy you. If it so happens that her aid is desirable a line to myself or to her would enable us to arrange all preliminaries very speedily. I should have mentioned that she will dispose of those already figured as well as figure others. In her letter to me on this subject she inquires what book will best explain to her the natural classification and what one if there is any one will best give her an insight

into the structure and characters of the Compositae
Having been compelled to suspend in great measure
my botanical pursuits for a few years past. there are
probably good works to be had in England on those
subjects of which works I know nothing. Will you
have the kindness to answer the question, to myself
and I will inform her. She already has your
edit. of Lindley. I suppose by this time you like
myself are preparing for a winter, campaing amid
retorts and crucibles. How do your Medical schools
in Dr. G. flourish: We hope to do wonders here this
present winter - whether we do or not remains to
be seen - Please write me a line on the business
of this note as soon as you conveniently can
and oblige

Dear Sir

Your obedt. & humble
Servant
William E. A. Aikin.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Emmitsburg Md.
Apr. 1. 1853

My dear Sir

An opportunity seems now to offer whereby an important addition to my limited income may be available provided yourself and a few other friends to whom I have applied, feel at liberty to say a word in my favour. I have applied for the appointment of "Examiner of drugs &c." for the Port of Baltimore and being personally unknown to the appointing powers need a few testimonials. Politically I am orthodox & for scientific fitness can only rely upon the notorious fact that I have been for more than fifteen years Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy in the University of Maryland – a sufficient guarantee that the interests of the public will be safe in my hands

If you feel at liberty to do any thing for me in the form of a letter to the Sec. of the Treasury or to any member of the Cabinet or as a mere general testimonial to be laid before the Sec. of the Treas. the influence of your name and public position would go far towards determining the matter in my favour. As the appointment is momentarily expected to be made I should be happy to hear from

you at your earliest convenience. And trusting that the emergency of the case will be an excuse for this urgent appeal to your kindness I am

Dear Sir Most Respectfully & truly

Your friend & servant

William G. Arthur

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Ans 9

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Baltimore Mar. 9. 1857

My dear Sir

If as I suppose by this time your professional labors for the session are over and you can find ten minutes to spare I will be very much indebted to you if you will once more do what you did so efficiently four years ago. The changes of President & Cabinet will be followed by changes in our Custom House and unless I can induce the powers at Washington to look at the thing in its proper light some one or other of the parties applying for my place as "Special Examiner of Drugs" on the plea of services rendered during the last political campaign will succeed in getting me out. Your opinion that the public interests in this matter may be simply intrusted to me will now as it did once before exert a very decided influence And if you believe with me that the public interests will not be best served by applying the principle of rotation in office to this case where the duties are so strictly scientific and so entirely disconnected with all subdivisions of political hostes, and can give me

this in written form it will go very far towards insuring my continuance. If you are personally acquainted with Toucey or Cobb or any member of the Cabinet the letter may be addressed to them — if not so acquainted a more general testimonial will answer as your official and your scientific position are well known and acknowledged even by politicians. When you have leisure to write the thing please inclose it to me as I propose to visit Washington and deliver my documents in person.

Respectfully & sincerely
Your obliged friend & servant
Wilhelm E A Arbin

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Prof. John Torrey

P.S. Could you send along a note of introduction to Prof. Henry of the Smithsonian with a hint as to what I would like him to do for me — i.e. to say a good word in the right quarter. I would like to make his acquaintance

91
TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Rec'd. on my return from Washington March 8th & ans'd. March 9 — enclosing a letter to Mr. Seward.

Baltimore Mar. 4. 1861

My dear Sir

I can only appeal to the necessity of the case as my excuse for once more troubling you in a purely personal matter. I would like you to do for me now what you did so efficiently four years ago when I was in danger as I am now of being superseded by some one of the many political aspirants for my place: It seems pretty well established that Mr. Seward will be in the new Cabinet but whether he is or not his influence will be unbounded and with him the influence of your name and well known position in the scientific world will be conclusive in my favor. Or if you prefer your letter may be addressed officially to the Sec. of the Treasury without naming him. Your opinion that the public interests in this matter may be safely intrusted to me or if you please that my experience of 23 years as a public teacher of Chemistry and Pharmacy together with 8 years familiar acquaintance with

the duties of the office of "Special Examiner of Drugs & Medicines" constitute a sufficient guarantee for the proper discharge of those duties in future, will exert a decided influence. Any thing of the kind you have leisure to prepare may be mailed to me, as you did before, and I will transmit it to the proper department in Washington. Trusting you will excuse the trouble my request involves I must say you to believe me most respectfully

& truly your obliged
Friend & Servant
William E. Arthur

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Prof. John Torrey

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

10

Baltimore Feb. 25. 1862

My dear Sir

It is unpleasant to be the bearer of unwelcome news, but the interest you have manifested in my behalf and your co-operation in my effort to retain my position under the Gen. Government as Special Examiner of Drugs and medicines for this Port renders it proper for me to apprise you of the result. I regret to say the effort was unsuccessful — I was removed in November last and the place was filled by the appointment of a retail druggist whose zeal as a political partisan was admitted as fully compensating for all scientific deficiencies. If at any future time returning reason should permit our public men to view such questions from a different stand point I may be happy to avail myself once more of your valuable assistance to regain what I have thus lost.

With many thanks for your kindness believe me most respectfully and truly

Your friend and servant

William E. Aikin

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Prof. John Torrey